organs, seems rather doubtful as to their function. Below these in the scale of nature we meet with no distinct vestiges of urinary excreting organs; so if my hypothesis regarding the nature of these above-described bodies be accepted, they will rank as either the first or the second early traces of such glands as yet found in the animal kingdom.

VII.—*Description of a new Species of* Corvina *from the Gambia.*

By Dr. Albert Günther.

Mr. Moore, Curator of the Liverpool Free Public Museum, has kindly sent for my inspection a Sciænoid Fish collected by J. Lewis Ingram, Esq., at Bathurst, on the River Gambia, which proves to be an undescribed species of the genus *Corvina*, for which I propose the name of

Corvina Moorii.

D. $8|\frac{1}{2^5}$. A. $\frac{2}{7}$. L. lat. 64. L. transv. $7/x$.

This species is distinguished by its broad and obtuse head, similar to that of *Collichthys*. The eye is comparatively small, about one-ninth of the length of the head, and only one-half of the extent of the snout. Interorbital space very broad, convex, its width being one-third of the length of the head. Hind margin of the præoperculum obliquely descending backwards, with short spinous teeth at the angle and along the margins. Snout very obtuse; jaws with narrow bands of short cardiform teeth, those of the outer series being much larger and conical. Cleft of the mouth of moderate width, situated at the lower side of the snout, the maxillary extending to behind the hind margin of the orbit.

The length of the head is more than the depth of the body, and one-fourth of the total length (without caudal). Scales of moderate size, irregularly arranged. Pectoral fin considerably longer than the ventral, as long as the post-orbital part of the head. Dorsal spines of moderate strength, not flexible; the second is the longest, and rather more than half as long as the head; the soft dorsal fin of moderate height. Caudal fin convex, slightly produced in the middle. The second anal spine strong, two-thirds as long as the first soft ray, and nearly one-third as long as the head.

Uniform blackish brown, the centre of each scale being lighter; fins black.

The specimen is 20 inches long.

Numerous species of Acanthopterygian fishes, especially from the west coast of Africa, show osseous tumours in some parts of

their skeleton. The seat of these tumours is chiefly the neural or hæmal processes, more rarely the interneurals and interhæmals. In the typical specimen of *Corvina Moorii* a date-like osseous tumour is attached to the spine of the second dorsal fin; and a second specimen which we have seen, from the same locality, has, singularly enough, a perfectly similar tumour on the same spine.

We have formerly (Fishes, ii. p. 296) expressed our opinion that these peculiar tumours are anomalous deposits of osseous matter, and that species founded on such a character (like *Corvina clavigera*, Cuv. & Val.), are extremely doubtful. Indeed we have now not the least doubt that this *Corvina clavigera* is identical with *C. nigrita*, of which we have seen an example, likewise belonging to the Liverpool Museum, which has the ventral and anal spines excessively thickened, in consequence of a similarly abnormal deposition of bony substance.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 10, 1865.—Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

On the Anatomy and Habits of the Water-Ousel (Cinclus aquaticus). By Edwards Crisp, M.D., F.Z.S, etc.

I have for a long time been occupied in preparing a work on the British Birds, more especially in reference to their structure, in connexion with their habits, the nature of their food, &c.; and there is no bird that has puzzled me so much as the Water-Ousel, and it is on this account that I bring the subject before the Society, hoping that I may obtain some information from the members present. I need not go very minutely into the history of this bird; but it will, I think, be interesting to compare some parts of its anatomy with those of the other *Merulidæ*. The object of my paper will be to endeavour, first, to ascertain by what means this bird, so unlike all aquatic birds in form, is enabled to dive and remain some time under water and capture its prey; secondly, to inquire respecting the nature of its food, and its supposed depredations on the ova and fry of fishes. I may premise that I have shot several of these birds in Scotland for the purpose of ascertaining the character of their food, and that I have had many opportunities of observing their habits. The three specimens on the table were sent to me recently (Nov. 30) by my friend Mr. Grierson, of Thornhill, Dumfriesshire; and I have dissected and examined them, as I had done on former occasions, in relation to the two questions above referred to. As the evidence of one inquirer in reference to the habits of this or of any other bird is comparatively valueless, let me quote a few authorities upon the subject.